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April 21, 2021

AUCCCD Statement on Derek Chauvin Guilty Verdict

The AUCCCD community all held our breath yesterday as we anxiously awaited the verdict of the Derek Chauvin murder trial. Before we could exhale, we were all reminded of the institutional and systemic racial trauma that the Black and Brown community have experienced in our country due to the glaring failures in our justice system. When the verdict was announced, we were able to breathe easier for a mere moment before that trauma came rushing back while Trayvon Martin, Breonna Taylor, just yesterday, Ma'Khia Bryant and countless others have gone without justice. This was an example of one police officer being held accountable for the unlawful and egregious use of force and we maintain hope that this is a sign of change to come. We as an organization, as well as individuals within AUCCCD, recognize that there is still much work to be done before we and our Black and Brown friends and family can feel safe and secure. We cannot allow this symbolic verdict to create complacency in our continued fight for equality, justice and human rights.

The AUCCCD Board and community stands for social and racial justice and will continue our journey for understanding, learning, listening and ensuring our campuses are a safe place for all.

AUCCCD is a professional community that fosters director development and success. To advance the mission of higher education, we innovate, educate and advocate for collegiate mental health. We are committed to inclusive excellence and the promotion of social justice.